SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, would you yield to a question, please?

SENATOR LANDIS: What's that?

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you.   You know, I've been before your committee before.   I think LB 327 was my first bill, "microenterprise", and I've been an advocate for this for some time. My question to you is how is the Department of Economic Development...will they establish a relationship with those already doing similar things with the Department of Economic Development, the NEON (phonetic) Group, those other folks? I understand that this is up to $1 million and the target population for "microenterprise" is somewhat less, but I was wondering is there a...any coordination between those two groups that you...not is there but will there be should this pass?

SENATOR LANDIS: The system is a grant system.   The system is designed to get a function that is not now out there, although there are other functions, some of which may exist in the marketplace and, in fact, you might be able to get from an existing vendor in a coordinated package.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay.

SENATOR LANDIS: The piece that is missing out there is this organization of investors into networks and the...the...facilitating the discussions between entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.   Are there some things that groups could go together, organize, and present an RFP together? Yes. Nothing would stop that from happening.   They would need an umbrella 501(c)(3) or an umbrella 501(c)(6) to serve in that capacity, but could they assist in that?   My answer to that would be yes.   The grant...the grant mechanism I think would allow for multiple parties to be, you know, to serve as the basis of whatever that receiving entity was, that granting entity, but they'd have to be working under one 50(c)(3) (sic--501(c)(3)) who would get the grant.   Can they work together with existing groups? Yes. Is there a piece that is sought in this bill that is not otherwise out there and is not available but simply "unaccessed"? The answer is yes. In fact,